

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1781

Introduced by Assembly Member Linder

February 18, 2014

An act to amend Section 69999.16 of the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1781, as introduced, Linder. California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program.

Existing law establishes the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program, which provides financial aid to qualifying members of the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, and the Naval Militia under the administration of the Student Aid Commission. Under existing law, a qualified member, as defined, of the California National Guard and State Military Reserve is eligible to receive financial assistance under the program if, among other conditions, the person enrolls in at least 3 academic units per semester, or the equivalent thereof.

This bill would revise this eligibility condition to specify that it is satisfied by a person enrolling in at least 3 academic units for a summer session or intersession term.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 69999.16 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:

1 69999.16. (a) Commencing January 1 of the 2009–10 academic
2 year, and each academic year thereafter, any qualifying member
3 of the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or
4 the Naval Militia may apply for a California National Guard
5 Education Assistance Award.

6 (b) A qualifying member shall meet all of the following
7 conditions to be eligible to receive a California National Guard
8 Education Assistance Award:

9 (1) The person is a resident within the meaning of Section
10 68017.

11 (2) The person is an active member of, and has served two years
12 in, the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or
13 the Naval Militia.

14 (3) The person has been accepted or registered at, or enrolled
15 in, a qualifying institution, as defined in subdivision (l) of Section
16 69432.7.

17 (4) The person agrees to use the award to obtain a certificate,
18 degree, or diploma that he or she does not hold at the time he or
19 she applies for the award, and enrolls in at least three academic
20 units per semester, or the equivalent thereof, *including summer*
21 *session and intersession terms*.

22 (5) The person has submitted the Free Application for Federal
23 Student Aid (FAFSA) to the United States Department of
24 Education.

25 (c) Each person applying for a California National Guard
26 Education Assistance Award shall submit an application for an
27 award to the Adjutant General.

28 (d) The Adjutant General shall do all of the following:

29 (1) Annually identify the skills most needed by the California
30 National Guard to retain members who possess, or seek to possess,
31 those identified skills.

32 (2) Prioritize those applicants who qualify for an award pursuant
33 to subdivision (b) based on the skills most needed by the California
34 National Guard, as identified pursuant to paragraph (1).

35 (3) Select award recipients from among eligible applicants
36 pursuant to subdivision (e).

37 (4) Certify the eligibility of applicants to the Student Aid
38 Commission.

39 (5) Notify recipients of their selection for an award.

1 (e) The Adjutant General shall select recipients who have been
2 judged by the Adjutant General to have outstanding ability on the
3 basis of criteria that may include, but shall not be limited to, any
4 of the following:

5 (1) The Military Occupational Specialty Code or the Air Force
6 Specialty Code.

7 (2) An annual noncommissioned officer evaluation report or
8 officer evaluation report of the preceding two years.

9 (3) A memorandum from the applicant's commander
10 recommending the applicant for the award.

11 (4) Commendations the applicant has received.

12 (5) An essay, written by the applicant, explaining why education
13 is important to the applicant.

14 (f) The number of awards issued by the Student Aid Commission
15 in any fiscal year shall be limited to the number authorized in the
16 annual Budget Act for that year, but in no event shall exceed 1,000
17 in any fiscal year.

18 (g) The Student Aid Commission shall issue the awards in
19 accordance with Section 69999.18.